

**County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health**  
**OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

Thursday, April 24, 2008

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note that the minutes are a brief summary  
and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

**Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding**

**I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin**

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

**II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd**

Attendance recorded:

- Absent Excused: Arnold Gilberg, Hayward McNeill, Victoria Sofro, and Lana Brody
- Absent: Phillip Chen

**III. Approval of the Minutes – Jerry Lubin**

The March 24 meeting minutes were approved.

**IV. Executive Staff Reports**

**Jerry Lubin, Chair** – Reported on the following:

**MHC/SAAC Chair's Meeting** – The group met April 8. The discussion focused on both PEI (Prevention and Early Intervention) and WET (Workforce Investment Team) plans. Gladys Lee, MHSA Planning and Program Development, provided an overview on both plans.

**2008 Awards Program Update** – At the April 15 board meeting, County Supervisors approved funding on an annual basis for the Commission's annual awards program. Nomination process selected the following recipients to receive outstanding recognition:

**Consumer** – Commissioner Frank Baron

**Family Member** – Jonee Shady, NAMI

**Program** – Excelsior House and Jump Street (Didi Hirsch Crisis Residential Program)

**MHC Award** – Renae Garrett and Barbara Massey

**Commission Chair Award** – John Hill, Chief of Staff, Second District

**MHSA Transformation Award** – Children of the Night

**Personal Legacy** – Paul Barry, Mental Health America

This year the commission celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of providing service to Los Angeles County. Former department heads and past commissioners will attend the celebration.

#### **V. Commissioner/Subcommittee Report**

**Commissioner Larry Gasco** – Commended Commissioner Frank Baron's presentation at the Consumer Advocacy conference. Commissioner Gasco stated Renee Woodruff, District Chief, West Central Mental Health Clinic, who retired is a great loss to Los Angeles County.

**Commissioner Delores Huffman** – Attended the CALMHBC (California Local Mental Health Boards and Commissions) meeting in April 18-19. The group continues its efforts to reach out to local boards that are not attending the quarterly meetings. Ed Diksa, CIMH, will be offering training for veterans in July 2008.

Commissioners who represent the Second District, Lana Brody, Delores Huffman and Hayward McNeill, were honored at a community forum hosted by County Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke. The forum was to introduce community services available in the second district particularly social services.

**Commissioner Barry Perrou** – The Stepping In Conference was held April 9, 2008 with just under 450 in attendance. Commissioner Perrou requested that the MRSA (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus) information that was discussed at the conference be forwarded to each Commissioner.

#### **VI. Director's Report**

**Dr. Marvin J. Southard, DMH Director reported on the following**

**Budget** - Dr. Southard reported that the budget is in good shape depending on, what decisions are made by the State budget, and the contractor rate cut effective April 1. Human services have achieved a more positive position with state legislation.

Plans for Fiscal Year 2008-09:

- \$20 million in program adjustments due to a decrease in county general funds and increase in MHSA funded positions.
- Changes in the psychiatric mobile response team (PMRT) to curtail overtime after hours because it is fiscally better to maintain the program. DMH is considering hiring dedicated staff for the after hours. (Note - changes to PMRT program were due to lack of patient beds not fiscal adjustments.)

- Look for more indigent beds. This task is slow and incremental but will constantly be at the forefront of DMH priorities.

Discussion took place on law enforcement transporting psychiatric emergency patients and the critical psychiatric bed availability. Dr. Southard invited Commissioners Perrou, Sosa, and Askins to participate in a parole realignment committee to address the law enforcement situation.

**Advocacy** – The statewide advocacy conference featured world class speakers. Los Angeles County can take pride in coordinating such an inaugural event to support and inform clients.

### **MHSA Highlights –**

Three proposals were approved at the stakeholder meeting on April 25, 2008 to facilitate the following PEI services distribution:

- 71% to children and youth particularly because mental illness is normally identified before age 12.
- 15% to adults – focus on trauma in adult mental illness
- 15% to older adults – particularly this population has less representation

### **MHSA**

A notable percent of MHSA entities did not negotiate contracts with DMH. The balance of these funds will go to directly operated and current contract agencies, and invest in practices where services are generally approved based on popular choice, such as, First 5 LA or California Endowment Center.

**Legislative Report** – Susan Rajlal – briefly discussed the following issues:

- After the deadline for all fiscal bills to pass out of policy committee or be dropped concluded the numbers of bills pending this year is less than last year's number.
- Los Angeles survived cuts that were applied to other counties.
- A review of DMH by senate subcommittee resented having to cut mental health services.
- All of DMH issues were put on hold until next senate subcommittee. State realized that they have been under billing claims by approximately \$10 million per year.
- List of bills and position
  - AB 1780 – oppose unless amended
  - AB 1965 – seeking an amendment
  - AB 2117 support if amended
  - AB 2541 – watch to determine if services required and funding sources as it is amended

AB 2667 – Oppose as it sets up mandate without any funding mechanism.

AB 2828 – Support

AB 3083 – Oppose- 1) sets a dangerous precedence in having the legislature amend MHSA and 2) veterans' treatment is a federal funding responsibility and it should not be assumed by the counties.

SB 292 – Support

SB 1349 – Support

SB 1380 – Watch for funding source and better definition of “serious behavior disorders:

SB 1470 – Support (has stipulations)

SB 160 – oppose

SB 1651 – Support

SB 1738 - Support

- CMS (Center for Medicare) update for Medicare and Medicaid Regulation Changes – The US House of Representatives passed HR 5613 by a vote of 349-62. The bill would institute a moratorium of any changes to Medicaid regulations until April 2009. This has been a mental health advocacy. Although the President has said he would veto this legislation, the margin of the votes is so high that the President cannot veto it. The actions of the senate regarding this issue will now be followed.

## VII. **Presentations** – Adult Justice, Housing, Employment and Education Services

Reina Turner, Acting Division Chief, Housing Policy and Development, presented an overview of the adult housing component of the CCS plan:

**Creation of Countywide Housing Specialists positions** – Staff will assist consumers and those who are at risk of homelessness secure emergency, temporary and permanent housing. Resources include Section 8 and shelter Plus Care programs that offer on-going rental subsidies and move-in and eviction assistance. Thus far 10 of fourteen Housing Specialists positions are filled and they have made over 4000 contacts with landlords to help negotiations for consumers on issues such as credit, and applications.

**Housing Trust Fund (\$11.6 million)** – Oversight of the fund is assisted by an advisory board comprised of consumers, family members, city and county housing departments, other county departments and homeless and housing community advocates to recommend allocation of the funds for supportive services and operating subsidies. Board members also participate in the RFP process for housing contracts, review applications, create funding principles, and are active in various projects and collaborations with the MHSA process. Thus far committee anticipates supportive services proposal process will be completed by early July and August.

**Safe Haven Transitional Housing Program** – This program will provide housing for adults who are chronically homeless and have been unable or unwilling to seek treatment or housing due to a psychiatric disorder. There has been a challenge to select contractors for this program because proposals submitted do not meet minimum requirements. Thus far other options are being considered by DMH.

**MHSA Housing Program** – This is a statewide effort with \$400 million in capital funding to construct housing units. Los Angeles County will receive approximately \$116 million to develop supportive housing. Thus far the Adult Housing staff has been providing technical assistance to applicants so that they meet criteria and qualify for the proposal process.

VIII. **SAAC and Community Reports - None**

IX. **Public Comments –**

**Sharon Lyle** – Discussed need for DMH to have in-house support for consumers with the State of California Department of Rehabilitation services system.

**William Legere** – Encouraged Commissioners to make a legislative visit to Sacramento for May is Mental Health Month to protest budget cuts in Los Angeles County.

X. **Next Meeting Information – NOTE MEETING CANCELLED**

The Commission will not meet in May instead the Commission will host the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Award Program on Friday, May 23, 2008.

The next meeting of the Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission will be:

**Thursday, June 26, 2008**  
**12 – 2:30 pm**  
**Hahn Hall of Administration – Room 739**  
**500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012**